



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

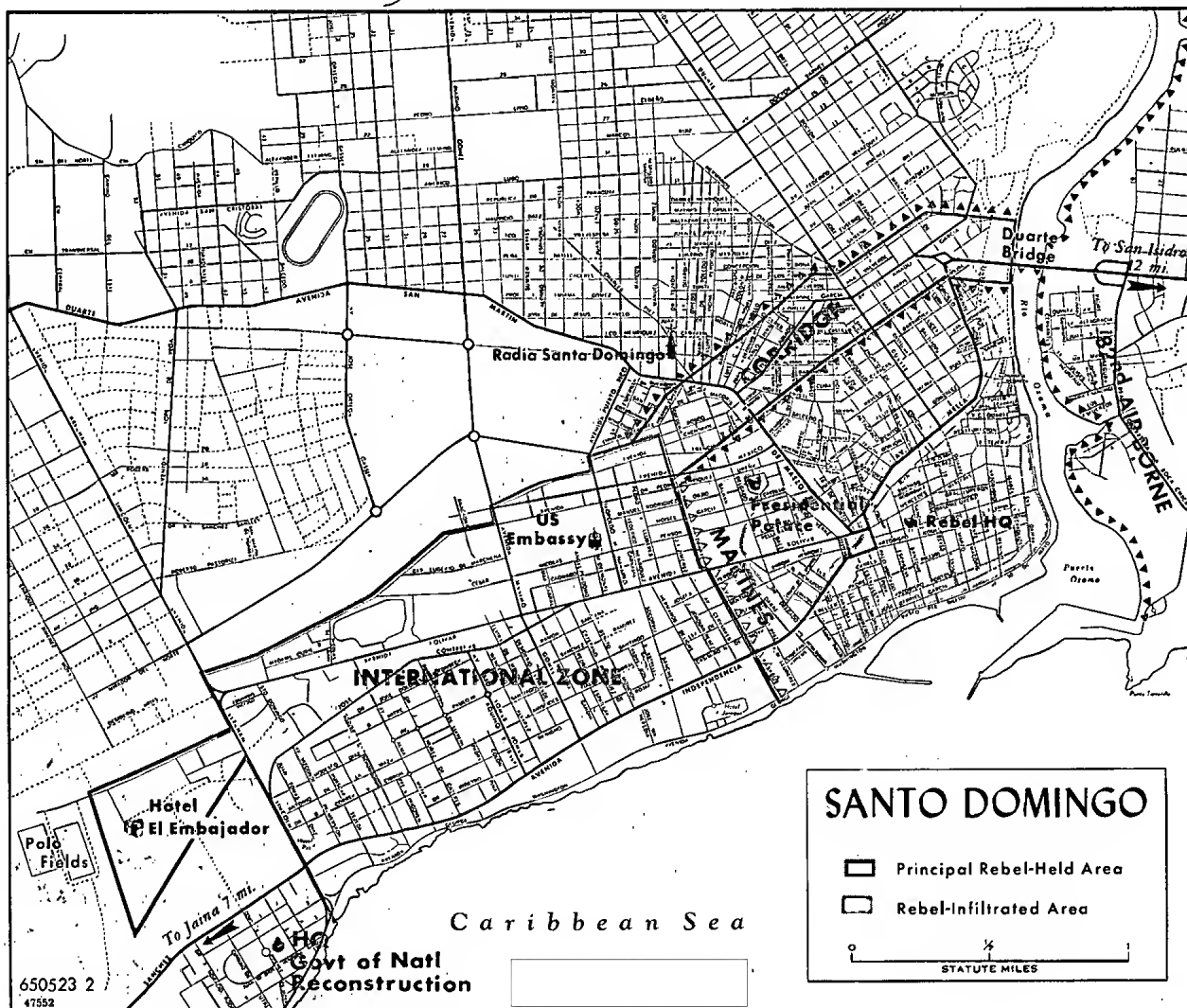
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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26 MAY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
26 MAY 1965

LATE ITEM

Dominican Republic

Both sides are clinging tightly to rigid positions. The prospects for an early compromise still appear dim.

Imbert apparently feels he has made some political progress lately and is encouraged by signs of support from the countryside. Most of the business community and lay church leaders are with him, and an increasing number of them now subscribe to a policy of "wipe out the rebels."

The loyalist armed forces continue to believe that any solution that favors the Bosch party would result in disgrace, or worse, for most of the military.

There is no sign of a break in the rebel front against Imbert. Rebel leader Hector Aristy made a radio speech last night blistering the loyalist regime and reiterated the rebel demand for a return to the 1963 constitution. This is the type of continuing public pronouncement our embassy points to as hardening the positions of both sides.

Last night the rebels launched a brief attack against the loyalist-held National Palace, the only ammunition storehouse in the rebel zone. The rebels are apparently feeling the pinch of an ammunition shortage.

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1. Vietnam

A third surface-to-air missile site near Hanoi has now been found, in photography of 24 May. Four of its six launch revetments appear well along in construction. Thus far, apparent missile-associated equipment has been found at only one of the three sites.

In Saigon, the impasse continues over Premier Quat's cabinet changes. Despite all argument Chief of State Suu still hesitates to sign a decree authorizing Quat's new appointments.

Suu apparently is sincere in his preoccupation with constitutional interpretations of the Provisional Charter, which is implicit rather than explicit concerning the premier's right to revamp his cabinet. However, he is being used by two incumbent ministers slated for dismissal.

Premier Quat, who apparently believes that his opponents are seizing on the issue to maneuver his own ouster, is thinking of taking a strong stand, possibly calling on the military for support.

2. USSR

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3. Bolivia

Junta president Barrientos may today have narrowly averted a coup attempt by armed forces commander Ovando, and thus avoided a situation which could have blossomed into civil war.

Ovando has been maneuvering with both the extreme left and the extreme right to line up support for a move against Barrientos

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Barrientos' countermove was to have Ovando today named co-president of the junta in order to remove him from direct control of military elements. Should this fail, Barrientos could still call on the air force, certain armed peasant groups, and perhaps half the army. Moreover, ex-president Hernan Siles, a ^{key} political leader, was reported today to be lining up support for Barrientos in La Paz worker districts.

Ovando could probably count on the La Paz police and some civil groups there, including the Communists, and probably the balance of the army.

A tense calm appears otherwise to have settled over the country. Work has resumed in the cities, and the schools are open. The situation in the mining areas is confused; most miners are still out on strike

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The junta may still resume its military intervention in the mines.

4. Communist China

Peiping has just contracted for about 1.6 million tons of grain from Canada, for delivery between July 1965 and April 1966. Chinese grain purchases thus far this year total between 5.5 and 6 million tons. Last year the Chinese bought about 6.5 million tons.

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5. Guatemala

There are signs within the Guatemalan Army of increasing disenchantment with Chief of Government Colonel Peralta.

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So far the discontent does not seem to have gone beyond the talk stage within the army, which is the principal prop of the regime. If the army's unity begins to break down, however, other groups opposing Peralta might be tempted to move.

6. Ghana

Conditions favoring some move against Nkrumah continue to ripen. Ordinary Ghanaians are subject to a greater economic squeeze. A recent riot protesting a government slum-clearance scheme may indicate growing popular willingness to resort to violence.

A port and rail strike is being worked up in western Ghana for next month. If the workers actually go out then, antiregime military and police elements might at last be emboldened to make a try at removing Nkrumah.

7. France

De Gaulle seems to be moving forward his timetable for a confrontation with NATO.

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De Gaulle wants a series of bilateral defense arrangements with the United States, Britain, and West Germany to replace NATO.

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